

## Senate Resolution 823

By: Senators Cowser of the 46th, Thomas of the 54th, Crosby of the 13th and Goggans of the 7th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring January 14, 2010, as Addiction Recovery Awareness Day at the state capitol; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, substance abuse ranks among the top 10 health problems in the United States  
4 and science has shown that addiction is a brain disease that responds well to treatment; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States comprises only 4% of the world's population, yet consumes  
6 over 60% of the world's illegal drugs; and

7 WHEREAS, children who start to drink alcohol before the age of 15 are four times more  
8 likely to become alcoholics than those who don't drink before they turn 21; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2007, only 6.5% of Georgians who needed help for alcohol abuse were  
10 treated while only 2.8% of Georgians who needed help for drug addiction received treatment;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, state governments bear the financial burden of the consequences of drugs and  
13 alcohol abuse, consuming an average of 13% for every state's budget; and

14 WHEREAS, approximately 80% of Georgia's prison inmates are abusers of alcohol or other  
15 drugs, but only 10% receive substance abuse treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, successful substance abuse prevention and treatment has been shown to reduce  
17 crime, increase workplace productivity, and improve overall relationships and quality of life;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, it is important to put an end to discrimination against individuals with addiction  
20 illnesses and remove the stigma that exists so that more people in trouble will seek out proper  
21 care and treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, several organizations made up of dedicated substance abuse treatment  
23 professionals are available in Georgia to provide assistance and information to those  
24 suffering with addiction, including the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences, the  
25 Georgia Addiction Counselors Association, and the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse.

26 WHEREAS, recovering from drug or alcohol abuse involves addressing discrimination,  
27 transcending stigmas, and rebuilding one's life – a reality for thousands of Georgians each  
28 day.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
30 applaud the contributions and efforts of those working in the addiction recovery profession  
31 to assist patients suffering from substance abuse problems.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Thursday, January 14, 2010, is recognized as Addiction  
33 Recovery Awareness Day at the state capitol.